

Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission
July 18 Testimony Regarding East Beltway

My name is Lyn Wineman. My husband Neil and I, and our three children live in the historic Stevens Creek Stock Farm which is one of seven significant historic that would be negatively impacted by the East Far Beltway Corridor. Of these properties, two are on the national register of historic places and five have been deemed historically significant and register eligible.

I am here today, to support the Planning Department Staff and Beltway Management Committee's recommendations **not** to build the East Far Beltway. The summary statement prepared by the planning department states that **the East Far Beltway route is not in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan. It is the least desirable route compared to East Close or East Middle.** Additional points made in the planning department summary include:

The East Far route has the **least travel savings** and may be the **most expensive** route to build.

The East Far route is the **least effective** for relieving traffic for the city of Lincoln.

The East Far route **requires more land** compared to the other routes.

The proposed East Far route has **more negative impact on natural resources and significant historic sites** than other routes.

The East Far route **does not have the lowest negative impact on existing residences.** There are other options that would disrupt fewer residences.

The summary also states the purpose of the comprehensive plan amendments is not to determine the accuracy or merits of the Draft Environmental Impact Study. I personally have read every letter and the public testimony that were provided in the 45 day comment period and understand that many serious errors have been brought to the attention of the Federal Highways Administration. **Once these errors are corrected, I believe that it will become even more apparent that the East Far Route is the least desirable route.**

My understanding is that the city and county may eventually seek federal funds to build this \$250 million dollar expressway. If so, **section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act prohibits the federal funding** of any transportation project that requires the "use" of any historic site unless there is no feasible or prudent alternative to the use of the site. The Planning Department Summary clearly states that *"there are better alternatives to the East Far route. These alternatives are better in terms of meeting the growth and development goals of Lincoln and Lancaster County."*

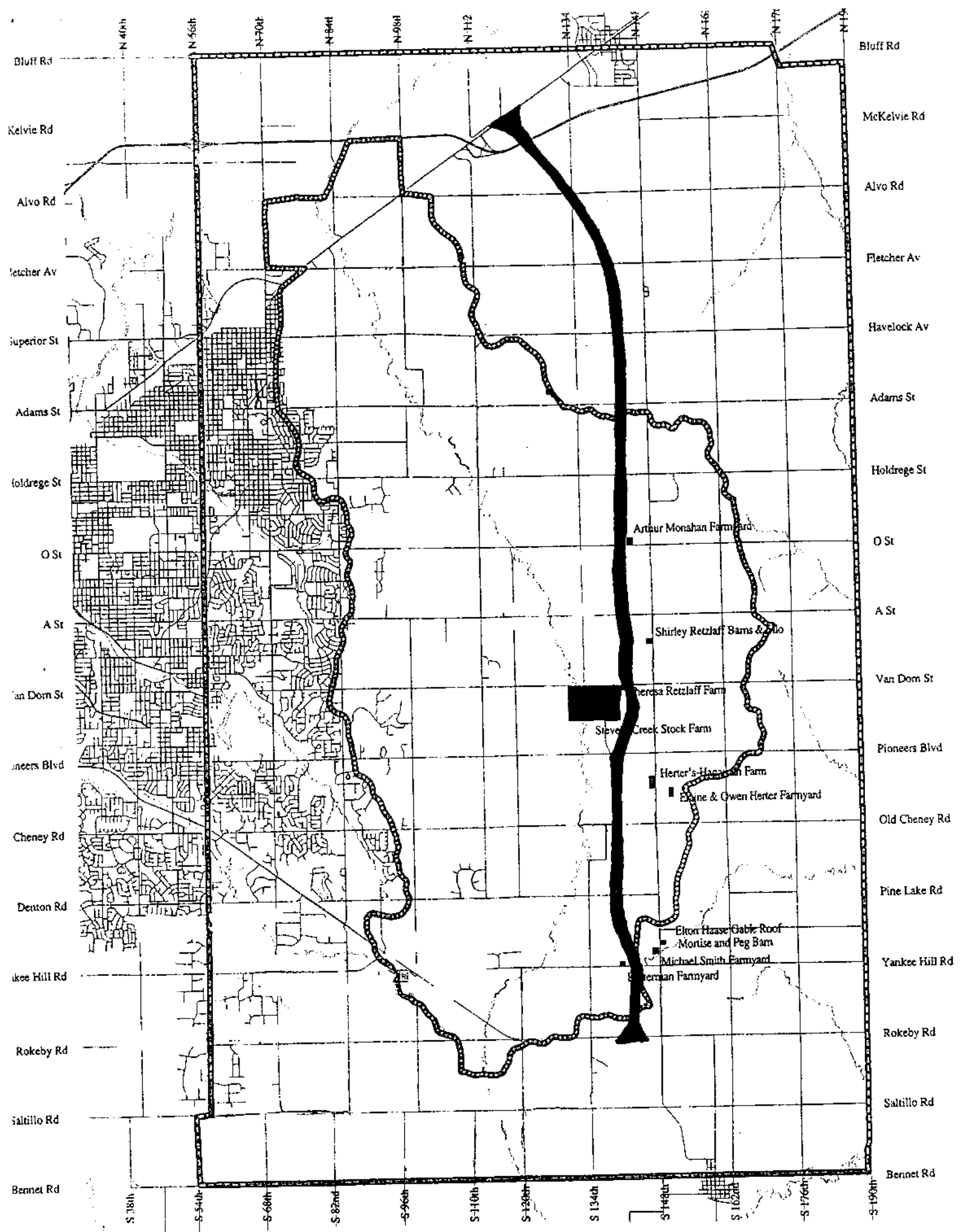
Additionally, **Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that the Federal Highway Administration assess the reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect adverse effects of building the beltway.** In the case of the East Far route it is reasonably foreseeable that construction of the proposed beltway would "cause or accelerate changes in land use" and induce unprecedented development around these seven historic farms that would diminish the integrity of the farm's setting – thus constituting an adverse effect.

The bottom line is that these seven properties have been deemed historically significant and have therefore been afforded protection under the law – from federally funded projects that will cause them adverse effects. There is NO doubt that if you put swath of concrete 16 miles long and 300 feet wide through the gently rolling hills and historic farmsteads of the East Far Corridor it will cause an adverse impact. Based upon my understanding of these factors, it is doubtful that federal funding would be available for the East Far Beltway Corridor.

The beltway selection process has been long and hard. It has been frustrating and stressful to all who live in the East beltway corridors. It has been expensive – costing the taxpayers of Lincoln and Lancaster County over \$2 million. Therefore I urge you to make a sound and logical decision – that you can live with, and that the city can live with for many years to come. I believe that the recommendation of the planning department is just that – sound and logical - and that is why I support the recommendation of denial regarding the East Far Beltway.

Thank you.

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STEVENS CREEK SETTLEMENTS

